

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09845 061137Z
ACTION VO-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EAE-00 SSO-00 SCA-01
SY-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 INRE-00 /031 W
-----061155Z 044632 /41

O 061055Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1858

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9845

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652* GDS
TAGS: CVIS, PINS, TH
SUBJ: COUNTERFEIT THAI PASSPORTS

1. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE JAPANESE VICE CONSUL, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF AN APPARENT COUNTERFEITING RING THAT IS PRODUCING THAI REGULAR PASSPORTS, REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

2. OUR COLLEAGUE, WHO CONFIRMED HIS DISCOVERY WITH THE THAI PASSPORT OFFICE, HAS PERMITTED US TO EXAMINE AND PHOTOGRAPH THESE SPURIOUS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND WILL GIVE US ONE OF THE THREE IN HIS POSSESSION.

3. WE SHALL FORWARD COLOR PHOTOS, NEGATIVES AND THE FALSE PASSPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT (SCA) FOR APPROPRIATE DISPOSITION.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, WE AND OUR JAPANESE COLLEAGUE HAVE ALERTED A NUMBER OF OUR CONSULAR COLLEAGUES TO THE COUNTERFEITS AND PLAN TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH A REQUEST THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM AND SEEK WAYS TO MAKE THE THAI PASSPORT MORE SECURE.

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5. CHARACTERISTICS THAT ASSIST IN DISTINGUISHING THE FALSE FROM THE GENUINE ARE:

A) ON THE FRONT COVER THE LETTERS OF WORD "PASSPORT" ON THE BOTTOM LINE TEND TO BE SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE REAL ARTICLE, MOREOVER, THE R AND T ALMOST TOUCH. SECONDLY, THE DETAIL OF GARUDA FIGURE TENDS NOT TO BE

AS DISTINCT AS THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

B) SIMILARLY, ON PAGE ONE, THE GARUDA IS INDISTINCT OR BLOTTED IN THE CENTER.

C) ON PAGE TWO THE STRAIGHT LINE UNDER THE PHRASE "UNLESS EXTENDED" HAS A SLIGHT IMPERFECTION.

D) ON PAGE 4, IN THE PHRASE "COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THIS PASSPORT IS VALID" THE "O" IN "FOR" OF THE COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENT IS CLEAR WHEREAS IN THE GENUINE PASSPORT THE "OL" IS SOLID. MOREOVER, THE "S" IN "THIS" IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE "S" IN THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

E) WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ANALYZE THE PAPER, DONE ON AN ADMITTEDLY SMALL RANDOM SAMPLE OF SOME 30 GENUINE PASSPORTS AND THE THREE COUNTERFEIT ITEMS. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO GENERALIZE DUE TO LACK OF UNIFORMITY AND QUALITY CONTROL IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE REAL ITEM WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RTG BUYS THE PAPER FOR ITS PASSPORTS FROM U.S. SOURCES AND AFTER DELIVERY, TINTS THE PAPER FOR ITS OWN USES: E.G., ORANGE FOR REGULAR, BLUE FOR DIPLOMATIC AND RED FOR OFFICIAL.), NEW FORMAT (1976) DOES NOT FLUORESCESCE WHEREAS THE SPURIOUS NEW FORMAT PASSPORTS DO FLUORESCESCE AS DO MOST GENUINE OLD FORMAT PASSPORTS. WE ASSUME, THE PERPETRATORS HAVE OBTAINED SOMEHOW A SUPPLY OF DISCARDS OF OLD FORMAT PAPER. THEREFORE, WE CAUTION END-USERS TO BE CAREFUL IN USING BLACK LIGHT TECHNIQUES AS THE SOLE DETERMINANT OF COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENTS.

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6. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM ALL POSTS AND PORTS OF ENTRY.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 102
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Litigation Codes:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: CVIS, PINS, TH
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